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(54) **Ultrasound diagnostic apparatus and ultrasound diagnostic method**

(57) In an ultrasound diagnosis, the inventor has found a characteristic that coincidence of RF data ( $D_0$ ,  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ ) after matching addition or amplitude image data ( $Ph_a$ ,  $Ph_b$  and  $Ph_c$ ) at the small opening are different between those of an isolated point (minute structure), a

continuous surface, and a speckle. On the basis of the characteristic, an ultrasound diagnostic apparatus (10) and method which can distinguish and extract the isolated point, the continuous surface, and the speckle and determine a tissue property are provided.

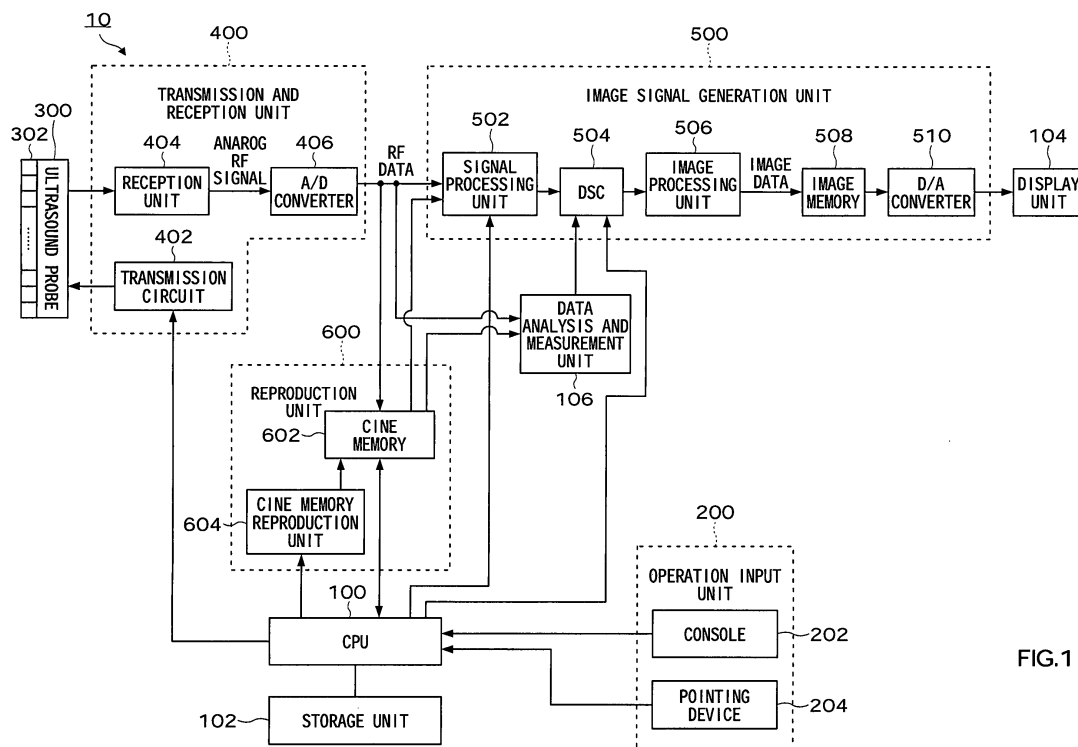


FIG.1



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 09 01 2103

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 6 508 770 B1 (CAI ANMING HE [US]) 21 January 2003 (2003-01-21) * abstract; figures 1, 2A, 2B * * column 2, line 38 - column 3, line 2 * * column 3, line 40 - column 4, line 61 * * column 5, line 1 - line 9 * * column 7, lines 32 - 41, 50 - 52 * -----	1-12	INV. G01S7/52
X	ANDERSON M E ET AL: "THE DETECTION OF BREAST MICROCALCIFICATIONS WITH MEDICAL ULTRASOUND", THE JOURNAL OF THE ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS FOR THE ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY, US, vol. 101, no. 1, 1 January 1997 (1997-01-01), pages 29-39, XP000678432, ISSN: 0001-4966, DOI: 10.1121/1.417973 * abstract; figure 2 * * sections I.B., I.C. and I.G. * -----	1-12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	EP 1 715 360 A2 (TOSHIBA KK [JP]; TOSHIBA MEDICAL SYS CORP [JP]) 25 October 2006 (2006-10-25) * abstract; figures 1, 4A - 4D, 6 - 8 * * paragraphs [0019], [0034] - [0035] * * paragraph [0046] - paragraph [0047] * * paragraph [0054] - paragraph [0057] * * paragraph [0071] * -----	1-12	G01S
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 June 2012	Examiner Knoll, Bernhard
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 09 01 2103

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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12-06-2012

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